



## BALTIMORE HOUSING

SHEILA DIXON  
Mayor

PAUL T. GRAZIANO  
Executive Director, HABC  
Commissioner, HCD

September 11, 2009

The Honorable Ray LaHood  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

Baltimore Housing, the umbrella organization for the Housing Authority of Baltimore City and the Department of Housing and Community Development is in strong support of the Westport Waterfront transit-oriented development project grant application pursuant to the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary grant program. The Westport Waterfront development project is the most ambitious and comprehensive waterfront redevelopment project to take place in Baltimore City since the creation of the internationally acclaimed Inner Harbor. This \$1.4 billion transit-oriented development will bring much needed economic stimulus to the Baltimore area, generating more than 15,000 jobs, 1,870 market rate and 200 affordable housing units and 2.5 million square feet of office space. The Housing Authority will oversee the development of 70 affordable homeownership units utilizing approximately \$6.3M of Tax Incremental Financing.

The Westport Waterfront represents a unique opportunity to directly impact an Economically Distressed Area (EDA) with the creation of long term permanent jobs, long term transportation and infrastructure improvements and long term sustainable quality of life enhancements. The proposed development will bring a much needed mix of incomes and is expected to spur the redevelopment of a nearby neighborhood business retail district.

The awarding of the TIGER funds to the project will leverage more than \$149 million of immediate transportation and infrastructure improvements which will directly enhance the existing transportation system by improving safety, increasing access to transportation modes, and creating a more connected and sustainable environment.



The Honorable Ray LaHood

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These infrastructure funds are critical to allow the project to proceed and will act as a catalyst and leverage additional private investment.

I strongly urge that you support the Department of Transportation's request for TIGER Funds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Graziano', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Paul T. Graziano  
Commissioner

Cc: Jamie Kendrick  
Peter Engel